

IN THE CLAIMS:

The state of the claims in the pending application is now as follows:

1. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog providing user selected control of burning rate, comprising:

a combustible material agglomerated into a predetermined shape as a combustible firelog;

a flammable wrapper surrounding said combustible firelog; and

at least one combustion shield joined to said flammable wrapper to reduce the air reaching a portion of the surface of said combustible firelog;

said combustion shield being of a fireproof, or fire retardent, material;

wherein user positioning of said combustible firelog for burning with said combustion shield retained underneath said combustible firelog shields that portion of said combustible material from air to reduce the burning rate; and

wherein burning of said combustible firelog with said combustion shield retained on an upper or side surface of said combustible firelog by said user allows the combustion shield to separate from the combustible firelog as said wrapper burns so that the combustion shield does not substantially impact burning rate.

2. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1, wherein said combustion shield is adapted with perforations on at least portions of its surface to allow for a predetermined amount of combustion.

3. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 1:

wherein said combustion shield may be at least partially removed by the

wherein said combustion shield may be at least partially removed by the consumer to expose additional portions of said firelog prior to burning; wherein the rate of combustion is selected by said consumer prior to igniting said firelog.

4. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 3, wherein a pull-cord, or equivalent, is attached to said combustion shield to facilitate full or partial removal of said shield.

5. (original) A manufactured firelog having an adjustable combustion rate, comprising:

combustible material agglomerated into a combustible firelog; and means for selectively shielding one or more exterior portions of said firelog from combustion during a portion of the time that said firelog is being burned.

6. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 5: wherein said means for selectively shielding said firelog comprises a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material; wherein said combustion shield is positioned proximal to said firelog to restrict airflow from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the resulting combustion rate.

7. (original) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield comprises a metallic foil material.

8. (original) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 7, wherein said metallic foil is less than approximately 30 mils thick.

9. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion rate may be adjusted by positioning at least a portion of said combustion shield on the underside of said firelog.

10. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is attached to the surface of said firelog.

11. (previously amended) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 6, wherein said combustion shield is joined to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

12. (original) A manufactured firelog as recited in claim 9, further comprising a pull tab, or equivalent, which allows the user to fully or partially remove said combustion shield to alter the combustion rate.

13. (original) In a manufactured firelog having a combustible material that has been formed into a predetermined shape and surrounded by a flammable wrapper, wherein the improvement comprises:

segmenting said manufactured firelog and associated wrapper to allow the consumer to separate said firelog and wrapper into sections prior to burning;

wherein the user can control the duration of the fire and heat produced by

burning one individual portion of the firelog, the firelog as a whole, multiple separated portions, or a combination of an entire firelog and one or more separated portions.

14. (original) In a manufactured firelog having a combustible material that has been formed into a predetermined shape and surrounded by a flammable wrapper, wherein the improvement comprises:

forming said manufactured firelog as complementary shapes that may be nested, or equivalent, during burning; and

wherein the complementary shapes may be burned separately to provide one level of heat output and fire duration, or nested together to provide a second level of heat output and fire duration.

15. (withdrawn): A baked bun, or equivalent, having edge-joined halve-portions which resist separating from one another, comprising:

a bread roll formed in a predetermined shape that is partially cut-through on a first side after baking so that its two halve-portions join at a hinge at a second side opposing said first side; and

a compliant edible material joined to said second side to reinforce said hinge of said bread roll;

wherein said first side may be opened without splitting said hinge on said second side.

16. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said compliant edible material is joined to said bread roll when it is in a dough form prior to baking.

17. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said compliant edible material comprises at least one thin strip of edible material that is not subject to becoming brittle during baking.

18. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 17, wherein said edible material is perforated.

19. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said compliant edible material comprises a liquid form material that is applied to the exterior of said roll to increase the compliance and density of said bread roll subsequent to baking.

20. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said compliant edible material comprises at least one additional layer of dough, having increased resiliency to hinge flexure, that is joined to the second edge of the dough of said bread roll prior to baking.

21. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said edible material is selected from compliant edible materials capable of retaining flexible properties after baking which consist of plasticized starch material, rice paper, casing materials, alginic acid, agar-agar, carragheenin, pectin, gellable polysaccharides, gelatin, and combinations thereof.

22. (withdrawn): A baked bun as recited in claim 15, wherein said baked bun
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comprises a hot dog bun, a hamburger bun, or equivalent.

23. (withdrawn): A method of cutting a baked roll into a bun to allow for the insertion of food items therein, comprising:

baking of a given dough roll to create a baked roll;

aligning one end and lengthwise axis of said baked roll with a laser cutting head configured to emit a collimated beam of sufficient power to cut through the length of said baked roll; and

moving said collimated beam in relation to said baked roll according to a predetermined cutout pattern that cuts from the outside of said baked roll to the interior creating an opening therein which may be filled with food items.

24. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 23, wherein said predetermined pattern circumscribes one or more cutout areas of the interior of said roll that may be removed prior to the insertion of said food items.

25. (withdrawn): A method of marking breads and other baked goods with textual or graphical elements on an exterior surface, comprising:

baking of said goods during which the exterior crust of the baked item darkens;

positioning said baked good in relation to a laser cutting head configured to emit a collimated beam of sufficient power to cut through the dark exterior of the baked good to the lighter-colored interior; and

moving said collimated beam in relation to said baked good according to a predetermined pattern; and

modulating the output of said laser cutting head while following said predetermined pattern to cut a textual or graphical element into the surface of said baked good.

26. (withdrawn): An apparatus to facilitate the removal of corks from bottles, and equivalent containers, comprising:

a cork retention member within which a cork may be received for retention therein;

a grasping member extending from said cork retention member which is configured to extend from the top of a bottle or equivalent after insertion of said cork retention member retaining a cork; and

said grasping member configured for external grasping so that the application of a sufficient pulling force applied to said grasping member is coupled to said cork retention member to remove the cork from a bottle into which it has been inserted.

27. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein said cork retention member is fabricated from a high-tensile strength inorganic material having a material thickness of less than approximately 20 mils yet capable of withstanding a cork pulling force which exceeds approximately 20 pounds.

28. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 27, wherein said high-tensile strength material is selected from high strength non-reactive inorganic materials consisting of carbon-fiber composites, aramid fibers, carbon nanotubes, and Kevlar.

29. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein said grasping member is configured as a loop of material which is adapted for manual grasping or manual grasping in combination with a stiffener.

30. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein said cork retention member is adapted in a shape wherein a portion of said cork retention member is retained below a portion of a cork received therein so that force applied to said cork retention member is translated to said received cork for removal thereof.

Claims 31 - 36 (Cancelled)

37. (withdrawn): An apparatus for preventing condensation on portions of the surface of a bathroom mirror, or equivalent, comprising:

a base member that is substantially planar and transparent; and
an adherent layer joined to said substantially planar surfaces, or portions thereof, of said base member; and

said adherent layer is adapted to retain said base member against the vertical surface of a bathroom mirror.

38. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said base member is preprinted with advertising.

39. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said base member has a thickness between approximately 30 mils and 80 mils.

40. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 37, further comprising a rolling means associated upon which said base member with said adherent layer may be rolled up for storage.

41. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation for reducing the offense caused by breath-born halitosis, comprising:

an edible base material;
flavorings within said edible base material to enhance flavor; and
at least one odiferant agent within said edible base material, associated with one or more specific causes of breath-born halitosis;
wherein the consumption the odiferant agent within said base material causes a reduction in the olfactory sensitivity of said specific causes of the breath-born halitosis associated with said odiferant.

42. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said odiferant comprises an odiferous compound associated with a given breath-born form of halitosis.

43. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said odiferant is associated with the consumption of garlic, or onions.

44. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 43, wherein said odiferant includes a sufficient quantity of acrylonitrile to decrease olfactory

sensitivity to garlic and onions.

45. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 43, wherein said odiferant includes a sufficient quantity of allicin sulphide to decrease olfactory sensitivity to garlic and onions.

46. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said base material includes breath freshening ingredients.

47. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said base material is selected from breath preparation carriers as selected from the group of carriers for oral consumption consisting of tablets, lozenges, chewing gums, and liquid preparations.

48. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said breath equalizer preparation is packaged in combination with conventional breath fresheners; wherein portions of the package, or preparations contained therein, are marked to designate their respective use as breath freshener, or breath unfreshener.

49. (withdrawn): A method of creating a breath equalizer preparation which reduces the sensitivity of the person consuming said preparation to specific elements of breath-born halitosis, comprising:
formulating an edible base material;

adding specific odiferants to said base material which are associated with specific forms of breath-born halitosis; and packaging said base material into a consumable form.

50. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 49, wherein said breath equalizer preparation is packaged in combination with conventional breath fresheners; wherein said packaging, or the individual breath preparations, are marked to indicate use as a breath freshener, or breath equalizer, or equivalent.

51. (previously amended): In a manufactured firelog formed from an agglomeration of combustible material in a predetermined shape, wherein the improvement comprises:

incorporating a combustion shield of a fire-resistant or fireproof material positioned to cover a portion of the surface of said said firelog to restrict air from reaching portions of the surface of the firelog to reduce the combustion rate.

52. (previously amended): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 51, wherein said combustion shield comprises a thin metallic foil attached to a flammable wrapper surrounding said firelog.

53. (previously amended): The manufactured firelog as recited in claim 52, wherein said combustion shield is adapted for full or partial removal from said firelog to alter the amount of combustion shielding provided which alters the resulting combustion rate.

54. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 37, further comprising a magnetic material joined to said base member, upon which magnetic materials, or items incorporating magnetic materials, may be magnetically attached.

55. (withdrawn): An apparatus as recited in claim 37, further comprising trays, loops, pockets, joined to said base member and configured for retaining items during use.

56. (withdrawn): A breath equalizer preparation as recited in claim 41, wherein said odiferant includes a sulphide compound associated with one or more specific breath-born forms of halitosis.